

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 03108 150456Z

12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 150400Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7054

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 3108

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID ID

SUBJECT: PL-480

REFS: A. STATE 54778 B. SECTO 481

1. REPORTS OF USG DECISION ON PL-480 FOR INDONESIA HAVE FILTERED TO JAKARTA THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS. PHONE CALL TO AID MISSION BROUGHT FIRST WORD NEARLY TWO WEEKS AGO. INDONESIAN EMBASSY APPARENTLY INFORMED EARLY IN MARCH AND REPORTED INFORMATION TO GOI. REPORTEDLY INFORMATION ALSO CONVEYED BY VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER TO INDONESIAN VICE PRESIDENT ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HAD NO DETAILED REPORT OF THIS CONVERSATION. EMBASSY, THROUGH REFTEL A, WAS LAST TO BE OFFICIALLY INFORMED. GOI HAD ALREADY GONE BACK TO WASHINGTON RAISING QUESTION ABOUT TOBACCO CONTEBT BEFORE WE HAD ANY AUTHORITY DISCUSS QUESTION WITH GOI.

2. WHILE APPRECIATING COMPLEXITIES OF PL-480 PROCESS, I REGRET, IN VIEW SECRETARY'S PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT (REFTEL B) THAT WE WERE NOT GIVEN EARLY OPPORTUNITY OFFICIALLY TO EXPLAIN TO FOREIGN MINISTRY REASONS FOR CHANGE IN COMMODITY, TO GIVE INITIAL INFORMATION ON MAGNITUDE, AND TO PLACE THIS IN CONTEXT OUR GENERAL TRANSITION STRATEGY.

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3. IN VIEW HISTORY THIS QUESTION, I CALLED ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR MARCH 15, REVIEWED HISTORY OF QUESTION, EXPLAINED REASONS FOR CHANGE FROM RICE TO COTTON AND TOBACCO AND MENTIONED THAT WE WOULD SHORTLY RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS.

4. GIVEN ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL NATURE OF THIS PROGRAM AND POSSIBILITY OF SEVERALSTICKING POINTS IN NEGOTIATIONS, I INTEND FOLLOW PROCESS CLOSELY. I HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN KEEP SPECIAL CHARACTER THIS PROGRAM IN MIND BOTH IN INSURING THAT I AM INFORMED IN TIMELY MANNER OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AND PROBLEMS AT WASHINGTON END AND IN SUPPORTING MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN U.S. POSITION AS PROBLEMS MAY ARISE.

5. WE WILL BE SENDING EARLY NEXT WEEK EMBASSY'S ESTIMATE OF LIKELY INDONESIAN REACTION TO VARIOUS ELEMENTS IN PACKAGE.
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